



# nassgap

national association of state student grant and aid programs  
www.nassgap.org

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December 16, 2013

The Honorable Jack Reed  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
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The National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) is pleased to write you in support of the Partnerships for Affordability and Student Success Act. We believe this bill represents a historic opportunity to renew and strengthen the groundwork laid by programs such as College Access Challenge Grants (CACG) and Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnerships (LEAP).

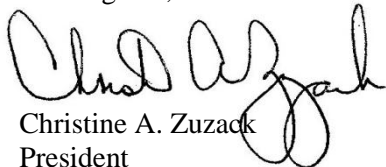
Since its inception, the CACG program has allowed states to identify and customize innovative strategies to prepare students for a college education and give them the tools and skills to access and successfully complete college.

LEAP matches state program funding, with states being responsible for identifying the approaches that best complement the need-based aid packages of students in their states. With the fiscal challenges faced by states in recent years, it has never been more important to have matching programs such as LEAP that align and coordinate federal and state need-based aid packages to ensure students of all economic strata are able to access college and pursue a quality education leading to a rewarding career.

NASSGAP greatly appreciates your support of federal-state partnerships in higher education and we look forward to working with you, your staff, and other Members of the Senate and House in finalizing and securing passage of this important legislation. NASSGAP members are committed to working within our respective states and with the United States Department of Education (ED) to ensure implementation of this Act in a manner that maximizes participation by the states. Because each state's primary need-based grant program is subject to statutes often unique to that state, we will work with ED to develop a framework of regulations that meet the goals of the Act while minimizing the need to pass legislation at the state level to permit participation.

We would be happy to discuss with you in further detail how we can facilitate state participation in the Act when enacted. Please feel free to contact me at (717) 720-2368 or [czuzack@pheaa.org](mailto:czuzack@pheaa.org); you can also contact our federal liaison, Frank Ballmann, in our Washington, DC office at (202) 721-1186 or [frank@nassgap.org](mailto:frank@nassgap.org).

Best regards,



Christine A. Zuzack  
President